



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 – H.R. 4755

SUMMARY

The Legislative Branch appropriations bill reported to the House on 1 July 2004 (H.R. 4755; H.Rept. 108-577) provides new budget authority \$1 million below the 302(b) suballocation for the Legislative subcommittee for all items other than the Senate. Consistent with a long-standing practice – under which each chamber of Congress determines its own housekeeping requirements, and the

other concurs without change – appropriations for the Senate are not included in the bill reported to the House. The bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2005 (S.Con.Res. 95, as applied in the House of Representatives by H.Res. 649, 108th Congress). Therefore it complies with provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As reported, H.R. 4755 provides \$2.751 billion in new budget authority [BA] and \$2.920 billion in outlays for 2005 – the same level of BA as fiscal year 2004, and an increase of \$140 million in outlays from fiscal year 2004 (see Table 1 below).

Budget authority is \$402 million below the President's budget – which by law reflect amounts requested by the

originating agencies, such as the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the House and Senate themselves. Hence this change is a reduction from what the agencies themselves requested.

The bill does not contain emergency-designated new budget authority, and does not include rescissions of previously-enacted budget authority.

Table 1: Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill ^a
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2004 Spending	Administration 2005 ^b	302(b) for 2005	Bill
Budget Authority	2,751	3,153	2,752	2,751
Outlays	2,780	3,086	2,897	2,920

^a These numbers do not include any funds for the Senate, including Senate items under the Architect of the Capitol.

^b By law, budget requests for the legislative branch are transmitted to the Congress by the Office of Management and Budget and the President without change in the amounts submitted by the originating agency.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act. The first of these prohibits consideration of any bill that exceeds a subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for new budget authority. The second, section 311(a), prohibits

consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of BA and outlays established in the budget resolution. The \$2.751 billion in new discretionary BA is under the 302(b) allocation to the Legislative subcommittee for all items other

(continued on reverse side)

than the Senate. Because no appropriations bills for fiscal year 2005 have been enacted, there is ample room under the

BA ceiling, and hence the bill would comply with section 311(a).

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Legislative Appropriations Bill ^a
(in millions of dollars)

	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
House of Representatives	1,008	992	1,045	1,042	37	50
Library of Congress	523	513	543	549	20	36
Government Accounting Office	457	451	474	468	17	17
Architect of the Capitol	344	396	266	416	-78	20
Capitol Police	210	230	232	247	22	17
Government Printing Office	135	122	122	126	-13	4
Congressional Budget Office	34	34	35	34	1	0
Other	40	42	34	38	-6	-4
Total	2,751	2,780	2,751	2,920	0	140

^a These numbers do not include any funds for the Senate, including Senate items under the Architect of the Capitol.

DISCUSSION

The bill as reported provides the same level of spending as 2004 (see Table 2 above), and is \$402 million less than the original agency requests. Items of note include:

- *Architect of the Capitol, -\$78 million:* The bill reduces spending below 2004 largely for general administration (\$60 million), the Capitol Visitor Center (\$49 million), the Capitol power plant (\$25 million), and library buildings (\$4 million), offset by increases in Capitol buildings (\$34 million), Capitol Police (\$23 million), and House office buildings (\$3 million). The bill also provides \$242 million less than requested for the following: library buildings and grounds (\$126 million); House buildings (\$41 million); Capitol Police (\$35 million); Capitol buildings (\$14 million); general administration (\$9 million); power plant (\$8 million);

Capitol Visitor Center (\$8 million); and Capitol grounds (\$1 million).

- *Capitol Police \$22 million:* The bill increases spending over 2004 for general expenses (\$16 million) and salaries (\$6 million). It provides a net of \$60 million below the request for salaries (\$89 million) partially offset by decreases in general expenses (\$29 million). Outfitting of new and existing office space would be paid for through reprogramming existing funds.

In addition to providing appropriations, the bill provides a new permanent authorization for voluntary separation incentive payments for legislative branch employees, a student loan forgiveness program for the Office of Compliance, and privatization of the Capitol power plant.

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